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GENERAL

1. Proposed Western approach to Moscow on Austrian treaty--
US Representative Reber now attending the Austrian treaty talks in London reports that, because the 9 January meeting indicated the USSR has no present intention of concluding the treaty negotiations, the Western representatives have agreed that a joint western approach should be made to Moscow. The US, UK and French representatives feel that the three Western ambassadors in Moscow should make a joint representation to the Soviet Foreign Office as soon as possible after the 13 January meeting when a continuation of the negative Soviet attitude is expected. Reber recommends that the joint representation: (a) recall the Kremlin's past assurances of a desire to conclude a treaty; (b) point out that, despite progress, new obstacles are continually being created; and (c) request that the Soviet Government state its attitude toward the Austrian treaty and give proof of its intention to proceed with negotiations. The Western representatives are also in favor of having the joint approach to Moscow accompanied by adequate publicity to demonstrate that the USSR is blocking the current negotiations for an Austrian treaty.

(CIA Comment: CIA believes that the USSR will continue its present stalling tactics on the Austrian treaty negotiations regardless of a tri-partite approach to Moscow.)

State Dept. review completed

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